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DIR-8189

13 March 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

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FROM : [REDACTED] OTR/IS/OBF, Room 1 D 1617, Ext. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Report on Completion of Vietnam Orientation No. 13,
20 - 28 February 1967

1. Basic Data

Vietnam Orientation No. 13 finished with an enrollment of [REDACTED] less than last month's registration. The course was conducted 20 - 28 February, a total of 6 days with Washington's Birthday providing a mid-week break. It was held at Headquarters Building in Room 1 A 13.

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2. Highlights

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a. The most significant fact about the class is not exactly a highlight: It was a cold group which asked few questions, provoked no discussions, and exhibited no strong feelings. Only 3 persons-- [REDACTED]--asked any number of questions. It was, in fact, depressing to see [REDACTED] Americans so apparently apathetic on the subject of Vietnam. Even in the final session, a panel of 5 persons answering any and all questions on assignments, travel, etc., were able to dispose of the 2 or 3 questions directed to them in 5 of the 45 minutes allotted. One could say the presentations left no room for questions, but this is hard to believe. The answer must lie in such factors as the reticence of the new employee, the timidity of the young and the non-political orientation of others. I wish none of this to reflect adversely on any single individual, for it surely is not for me, in the context of this Orientation, to analyze the inarticulateness of anybody. I only note that as a group they lacked fire.

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b. On the brighter side there are two items worth mentioning. One, the class was treated to a first hand and really current report on living conditions in Saigon when the former Chief of Support in FE, [REDACTED] returned from Saigon on TDY and made an unscheduled presentation. Two, a panel on living conditions was actually two panels,

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one for the men and the other for the 8 girls in the class. The panels were conducted, of course in different rooms, and the girls, when theirs was over, re-joined the men for the end of that session.

3. Critiques

a. These papers were uniformly favorable in their comments on the course and the speakers. Only 2 speakers were specifically criticized adversely; but one observed that "Most (lecturers) seemed bored."

b. Some comments worth noting are:

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"My sole contact with [REDACTED] at Headquarters has been through the FE Personnel, so until this course I was completely in the dark. Even now I have to admit I have never had occasion to visit the [REDACTED] offices."

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"This has been the most interesting week I have ever spent at the Agency: Partly because the information was all pertinent and partly because I had much respect for the men who spoke and their rational, serious attitude."

"I was particularly impressed by the speakers, films, etc., much more than I had expected."

"...it really does motivate one by letting him know what the situation in Vietnam is really about. It gives more purpose to your assignment. I think all the lectures were on a very realistic and frank level which has helped me to better prepare myself mentally for my forthcoming tour. I have a good "rounded" idea of Vietnam due to an excellent array of talented instructors."

c. Every batch of critiques seems to have at least one observation which defies comprehension. This month's puzzler was an answer to the question as to how the course could be improved; the answer was "More question and answer periods with the lecturer." This in spite of the fact that I was close to offering both Green and Top Value Stamps for each question asked at the end of a lecture!

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Chief, Orientation and
Briefing Faculty

Attachments
Schedule
Student Roster

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